

500 Basic Hebrew Words

(See also German version: „Hebräisch – Grundwortschatz“)

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(This list contains the 500 most frequent and most important words of the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible and is intended to help you keeping up your Hebrew. The transcription follows the rules of ZAW).

אָב	'āb	father
אָבֵד	'bd	Q. perish; Pi., Hi. ruin
אָבָה	'bh	be willing
אָבֶן	'æbæn	stone
אָדוֹן	'ādōn	master, lord
אָדֹנָי	' ^a dōnāy	lord
אָדָם	'ādām	man, mankind, people
אֲדָמָה	' ^a dāmā	(arable) soil
אָהֵב	'hb	like, love
אֹהֶל	'ohæl	tent
אוֹר	'ōr	shine, light up
אוֹרֵךְ	'ōr	light
אוֹת	'ōt	sign
אָז	'āz	then
אָזֶן	'ozæn	ear
אָח	'āḥ	brother
אָחָד	'æḥād	one
אָחוֹת	'aḥôt	sister
אֲחֵר	'aḥēr	another, different
אַחֲרָי	'aḥar	later on, afterwards
אַחֲרָי	'aḥ ^a rê	after
אַחֲרִית	'aḥ ^a rît	end, behind, issue, the future
אֵיב	'oyēb	enemy
אֵיל	'ayil	ram

אֵין / אֵין	'ayin / 'ēn	is not, non existence, nothing
אִישׁ	'îs	man
אֶךְ	'ak	only
אָכַל	'kl	eat
אֶל	'æl	towards
אֵל	'al	not
אֵל	'ēl	god
אֵלֶּה	'ellæ	these
אֱלֹהִים	' ^æ lō ^a h	god
אֱלֹהִים	' ^æ lōhîm	god, gods
אֶלֶף	'alæf	thousand
אִם	'im	if
אִם	'ēm	mother
אָמָה	'āmā	(maid), servant
אָמָה	'ammā	forearm, cubit
אֲמוּנָה	' ^æ mûnā	faithfulness, trustworthiness
אָמַר	'mr	say
אֲמוּנָה	' ^æ mæt	faithfulness
אֲנִי	' ^a nî	I
אֲנֹכִי	'anokî	I
אָסַף	'sf	gather (food), collect
אֶף	'af	also, even
אֶף	'af	nose, anger
אַרְבַּע / אַרְבָּעָה	'arba' / 'arbā'ā	four
אַרְבָּעִים	'arbā'îm	forty
אָרוֹן	' ^a rôn	chest, ark of the covenant
אֶרֶץ	'æraes	ground, country, territory, the earth
אָרַר	'rr	curse
אֵשׁ	'ēs	fire
אִשָּׁה	'iššā	woman
אֲשֶׁר	' ^a šær	relative clause

אֶת	'et	together with, along with
אֶת	'et	accusative particle
אַתָּה	'attā	you (sg.)
אַתֶּם	'attæm	you (pl.)
בְּ	b ^e	in, at, because of, by way of
בִּגְד	bægæd	garment, covering
לְבַד/בִּד	bad/l ^e bad	part/apart, alone, only
בְּהֵמָה	b ^e hēmā	cattle, animals
בֹּא	bô'	Q. enter, come to Hi bring (conduct, lead) in
בּוֹר	bôr	cistern, water pit
בָּחַר	bḥr	choose, elect
בִּטַּח	bṭḥ	be reliant, trust
בֵּין	byn	Q., Hi. to understand
בֵּין	ben	between
בַּיִת	bayit	house
בָּכָה	bkh	weep
בְּכֹר	b ^e kor	first-born
בְּלִי/בְּלֹתִי	b ^e lî/biltî	without
בָּמָה	bama	hill, high-place, place of worship
בֵּן	ben	son
בָּנָה	bnh	build
בַּעַד	ba'ad	for, for the benefit of
בָּקָר	bāqār	cattle
בֹּקֶר	boqær	morning
בָּקַשׁ	bqš	seek
בָּרָא	br'	create (god exclusively)
בְּרִית	b ^e rît	covenant, arrangement
בָּרַךְ	brk	Pi. bless
בְּרָכָה	b ^e rākā	blessing

בָּשָׂר	bāsār	flesh
בַּת	bat	daughter
גָּאֵל	g'l	redeem
גָּבַהּ	gbh	be high/tall, be exalted
גְּבוּל	g ^e bûl	boundary, territory
גִּבּוֹר	gibbôr	hero, fighter
גָּדוֹל	gādôl	great
גָּדַל	gdl	be, become great/strong
גּוֹי	gôy	people, nation
גַּיְא/גַּיָּא	gaj'/gē	valley
גַּם	gam	also
גֵּר	gēr	sojourner
גָּרַשׁ	grš	drive out
דָּבַק	dbq	cling, cleave to
דָּבַר	dbr	speak
דָּבָר	dābār	word, matter, affair
דְּבַשׁ	d ^e baš	honey
דּוֹר	dôr	generation
דָּם	dām	blood
דֶּרֶךְ	dæræk	way, road
דָּרַשׁ	drš	seek, inquire of
הַ	h-	the (definite article)
הֲ	h ^a -	interrogative particle
הוּא	hû'	he
הִיא	hî'	she
הִיָּה	hyh	occur, happen
הֵיכָל	hêkāl	palace, temple
הָלַךְ	hlk	go
הָלַל	hll	Pi. praise

הֵמָּה/הֵם	hem(mā)	they
הֵן/הִנֵּה	hen/hinne	behold!
הַר	har	mountain(s)
הָרַג	hrg	kill
הָרָה	hrh	be, become pregnant
וְ	w ^e	and
זֹאת	zōt	this (sg. f.)
זָבַח	zbḥ	to sacrifice, slaughter
זִבְחָהּ	zəbaḥ	(communion) sacrifice
זֶה	zæ	this (sg. m.)
זָהָב	zāhāb	gold
זָכַר	zkr	remember, call to mind
זָנָה	znh	be unfaithful, commit fornication
זָעַק/צָעַק	zʿq/ṣʿq	cry out, call for help
זָקֵן	zqn/zāqēn	be old, grow old
זָרַע	zəraʿ	seed, descendant(s)
חָג/חָג	ḥāg/ḥag	feast
חָדָשׁ	ḥādāš	new
חֹדֶשׁ	ḥodæš	(new) moon, month
חוּה	ḥwh	Hišt. honor, adore
חוֹמָה	ḥômā	wall
חוּץ	ḥûṣ	outside, street
חָזַה	ḥzh	see, behold
חָזַק	ḥzq	Q. grow strong, firm Hi. seize, take hold of
חֲזָק	ḥāzāq	firm, strong
חָטָא	ḥtʾ	miss, offend, commit a sin
חַטָּאת/חַטֵּאת	ḥet/ḥattāt	offence, sin

חַי	ḥay	alive, living
חַיָּה	ḥyh	be alive
חַיִּים	ḥayyim	life
חַיִּיל	ḥayil	faculty, power
חָכַם	ḥkm	be wise
חָכָם	ḥākām	wise
חָכְמָה	ḥōkmā	wisdom
חֲלֹם	ḥ ^a lôm	dream
חָלַם	ḥlm	to dream
חֲמָה	ḥēmā	rage, wrath
חַמֵּשׁ/חַמֶּשֶׁה	ḥāmēš/ ḥ ^a mišša	five
חַמִּישִׁים	ḥ ^a miššim	fifty
חֵן	ḥēn	favour, grace
חָנָה	ḥnh	encamp
חָנַן	ḥnn	to favour
חָסַד	ḥæsəd	prove loyal, solidarity
חָפֵץ	ḥfṣ/ḥāfēṣ	take pleasure in, take care off
חֲצִי	ḥ ^a šî	half
חֲצֵר	ḥāšēr	court
חֶק/חֻקָּה	ḥoq/ḥuqqā	regulation, prescription
חֶרֶב	ḥæræb	(short) sword
חָרַשׁ	ḥrš	to plough
חָרָשׁ	ḥrš	Q. be deaf Hi. be silent
טוֹב/יָטֵב	tôb/yṭb	be good, be pleasant
טוֹב	tôb	good
יָאֵר	y ^e ʾor	river (mostly: Nile)
יָבֵשׁ	yḇš	dry up, wither
יָד	yād	hand, power
יָדָה	ydh	Hi. praise

ידע	ydʿ	(get to) know
יום	yôm	day
יין	yayin	wine
יכל	ykl	be able, have it in one's power
ילד	yld	Q. bear, Hi. procreate
יֶלֶד	yælæd	child
ים	yām	sea
יָמִין	yāmîn	right hand, the right side
יסף	ysf	Q., Hi. add, continue
יעץ	yʿš	advise, give an advise
יצא	yšʾ	Q. go out, come forth Hi. cause to go forth, bring forth
יצק	yšq	pour out
יצר	yšr	form, shape
ירא	yrʾ	to fear
יִרְאָה	yirʾā	fear, reverence
ירד	yrd	descend, go down
ירש	yrš	Q. take possession of, inherit Hi. drive away
יש	yēš	existence, there is, it exists
ישב	yšb	sit, dwell
ישוע	yʿsū ^a	(acts of) help
ישע	yšʿ	help, save
ישר	yāšār	straight, right, upright
יתר	ytr	Ni. remain, Hi. leave over
כּ	k ^e	as
כָּבֵד	kbd	Q. be heavy, weighty Pi. honour
כְּבוֹד	kābôd	splendour
כֶּבֶשׂ	kæbæś	lamb, young ram
כה	ko	thus

כֹּהֵן	kohēn	priest
כּוּן	kûn	Ni. be firm, be established Hi. make ready, prepare
כֹּחַ	ko ^a ḥ	strength, power
כִּי	kî	therefore, because
כָּל/כֹּל-	kol/kōl	the whole, all
כלה	klh	Q. be completed, cease Pi. bring to an end, finish
כֵּלִי	k ^e lî	vessel
כֵּן	ken	thus
כַּנָּף	kānāf	wing
כִּסֵּא	kissēʾ	throne
כסה	ksh	Pi. cover
כֶּסֶף	kæsæf	silver (the metal)
כף	kaf	palm, flat of the hand
כפר	kpr	Pi. make expiation
כרת	krt	Q. cut off, make a covenant Hi. cut off, destroy
כתב	ktb	write
ל	l ^e	for, concerning
לא	lōʾ	not
לֵב/לֵבָב	lēb/lēbāb	heart
לחם	lḥm	Ni. fight
לֶחֶם	læḥæm	bread
לַיְלָה	laylā	night
לכד	lkd	catch, seize
למד	lmd	learn
לקח	lqh	take
לָשׁוֹן	lāšôn	tongue, language
מְאֹד	m ^e ʾod	very
מֵאָה	meʾā	hundred

מָאָס	m's	reject, despise
מָגֵן	māgēn	shield
מִגְרָשׁ	migrāš	pasture-ground
מִדְבָּר	midbār	wilderness
מָה	mā	what?
מוֹעֵד	mo'ēd	appointed time
מוֹת	mût	Q. die, Hi. kill
מוֹת	mawæt	death
מִזְבֵּחַ	mizb'ah	altar
מִזְמוֹר	mizmôr	song, psalm
מַחֲנֶה	mah ^a næ	encampment
מַטֵּה	maṭṭæ	staff, rod, tribe
מִי	mî	who?
מַיִם	mayim	water, waters
מָכַר	mkr	sell
מָלֵא	ml'	be full, be accomplished
מַלְאָךְ	mal'āk	messenger, angel
מִלְאָכָה	m ^e lā'kā	sending, labour, work
מִלְחָמָה	milhāmā	fight, battle
מִלֵּט/פִּלֵּט	mlt/plṭ	Ni. save oneself, escape Pi. save
מֶלֶךְ	mlk	be king, to reign
מֶלֶךְ	mælæk	king
מַלְכוּת	malkût	royal power, reign
מַמְלָכָה	mamlākā	kingdom, dominion
מִן	min	from, off
מִנְחָה	minhā	gift, present
מִסְפָּר	mispār	number
מְעַט	m ^e 'aṭ	few, a little
מֵעַל	ma'al	on the top of, above
מַעַן	ma'an	for the sake of, in order that
מַעֲשֵׂה	ma ^a śæ	deed

מָצָא	mš'	find
מַצָּה	maṣṣā	unleavened bread
מִצְוָה	mišwā	commandment(s)
מָקוֹם	māqôm	place
מַרְאֵה	mar'æ	appearance
מַשָּׂא	maśśā'	burden, utterance
מָשַׁח	mšḥ	anoint
מָשִׁיחַ	māši ^a ḥ	anointed
מִשְׁכָּן	miškān	dwelling-place
מִשַּׁל	mšl	rule
מָשָׁל	māšāl	proverbial saying
מִשְׁפָּחָה	mišpāhā	(larger) family, clan
מִשְׁפָּט	mišpaṭ	(legal) decision, justice
נָא	na'	now! come!
נֹאֵם	n ^e 'um	utterance (of god)
נִאֵף	n'f	commit adultery
נָבִיא	nābî'	prophet
נֶגֶב	nægæb	south, the south-country
נִגַּד	ngd	Hi. make known, report, tell
נֶגֶד	nægæd	in front of
נָגַע	ng'	touch, hurt a person
נִגַּשׁ	ngš	Q., Ni. draw near, approach Hi. bring, bring near
נִדָּר	ndr	vow
נָהָר	nāhār	river
נוּחַ	nû ^a ḥ	rest
נוֹס	nûs	flee
נָחַל	nāhāl	wadi, torrent
נַחֲלָה	nah ^a lā	hereditary property
נַחְנוּ	nah ⁿ û	we
נְחֹשֶׁת	nehošæt	copper, bronze

נָמָה	nṯh	Q. extend, incline Hi. recline, bend
נָכַה	nkḥ	strike, smite
נָסָה	nsh	Pi. test, try
נָסַע	nsʿ	set out, journey
נָעַר	naʿar	lad, young boy, servant
נַעֲרָה	naʿrā	young girl, maid
נָפַל	nfl	fall
נַפֶּשׁ	naefæš	soul, living being, person
נָצַל	nšl	Hi. tear away, deliver
נָשָׂא	nśʾ	bear, carry
נָשִׂיא	nāśîʾ	deputy, chief
נָשַׁק	nšq	kiss
נָתַן	ntn	give
נָתַץ	ntš	tear down, destroy
סָבַב	sbb	turn, be round about, march around
סָבִיב	sābîb	all around
סוּס	sûs	horse
סוּר	sûr	Q. turn side, Hi. remove
סָפַר	sfr	Q. count, Ni. be counted Pi. tell
סֵפֶר	sefær	book
עָבַד	ʿbd	serve, work
עֶבֶד	ʿæbæd	servant, slave
עֲבָדָה	ʿ ^a bōdā	work, labour, service
עָבַר	ʿbr	pass by, go over
עֵבֶר	ʿebær	the region beyond/opposite
עִבְרִי	ʿibrî	Hebrew
עֵד	ʿēd	witness
עֵדָה	ʿēdā	gathering, congregation

עוֹד	ʿôd	still, once more, again
עוֹלָם	ʿôlām	eternity
עוֹן	ʿāwôn	sin, guilt
עוֹף	ʿof	fly
עוֹף	ʿof	flying creatures, bird
עֹז	ʿoz	power, strength
עֹזַב	ʿzb	leave, abandon
עֵין	ʿayin	eye, spring
עִיר	ʿîr	town, city
עַל-	ʿal	upon, above, against
עָלָה	ʿlh	Q. go up, ascend, Hi. bring, lead up, offer sacrifices
עֹלָה	ʿôlā	(whole burnt-) offering
עֲלִיּוֹן	ʿælyôn	the upper, the highest
עַם	ʿam	people
עִם	ʿim	(together) with
עָמַד	ʿmd	stand
עַמּוּד	ʿammûd	pillar, column
I עָנָה	ʿnh	answer, hear, grant
II עָנָה	ʿnh	Q. be downcast, afflicted Pi. humiliate, do violence
עָנִי	ʿāni	poor, humble
עֲנִי	ʿ ^o nî	poverty, affliction
עָנָן	ʿānān	cloud
עָפָר	ʿāfār	dust
עֵץ	ʿēš	tree(s)
עֶצֶם	ʿæšæm	bone, being
עָרַב	ʿæræb	evening
עָשָׂה	ʿšh	make, manufacture
עֶשֶׂר/עֶשְׂרֵה	ʿæsær/ʿ ^a sara	ten
עֶשְׂרִים	ʿæsřîm	twenty
עֵת	ʿēt	time

עַתָּה	ʿattā	now
פָּדָה	pdh	buy (off), ransom, redeem
פֶּה	pæ	mouth
פָּלַט / מָלַט	plt/mlt	Q. escape, Pi. save
פָּלַל	pll	Hitp. pray
פָּן	pæn	lest
פָּנָה	Pnh	turn toward a direction
פָּנִים	pānîm	face, surface
פָּעַל	pʿl	make, do
פָּעַם	paʿam	step, occurrence, time
פָּקַד	pqd	go to see, take care of
פָּר	par	young bull
פְּרִי	pʿrî	fruit
פָּשַׁע	pšʿ	rebel, revolt against
מִרְשָׁע	pæšaʿ	rebellion, revolt,
פָּתַח	pth	open
פְּתִיחַ	pætaḥ	opening, entrance
צֶאֱן	ṣôn	small cattle
צָבָא	ṣābā	host
צַדִּיק	ṣaddîq	righteous
צָדַק	ṣdq	be in the right, be just
צִדְקָה / צָדִק	ṣædæq/ṣedāqā	righteousness
צִוָּה	ṣwh	Pi. to command
צֹר	ṣûr	rock
צָעַק	ṣʿq	cry, call (to aid)
צָפוֹן	ṣāfôn	north
צָפַן	ṣfn	hide
קָבַץ	qbs	Q., Pi. collect, assemble
קָבַר	qbr	bury

קָדוֹשׁ	qādôš	holy
קֶדֶם	qædæm	in front, bygone days, east
קִדֵּשׁ	qdš	Q. be holy, Pi., Hi. consecrate
קִדְשׁ	qodæš	holiness, holy place
קָהַל	qhl	Ni. assemble, Hi. call together
קָהָל	qāhāl	assembly, convocation of the people
קוּה	qwh	Pi. hope, wait for
קוֹל	qôl	sound, voice
קוּם	qûm	arise, last
קָטַן / קָטוֹן	qtñ/qaṭon	be insignificant, small
קָטַר	qtr	Pi. send sacrifices up in smoke
קָלַל	qll	Q. be slight, Pi. curse
קָנָה	qnh	acquire, buy, create
קִצִּיר	qāšîr	harvest of grains
קָרָא	qrʾ	call
קָרַב	qrb	Q. approach, Hi. offer
קֶרֶב	qæræb	the inward part (of body), in the midst
קֶרְבָּן	qōrbān	offering, gift
קָרַה	qrh	meet, occur
קָרוֹב	qārôb	near
קָשַׁת	qæšæt	bow
רָאָה	rʾh	Q. see, Ni. be seen, show oneself, appear, Hi. show
רֹאשׁ	rōš	head, summit, upper end
רֵאשֹׁן	rîʾšôn	the first (position)
רֵאשִׁית	rēʾšît	beginning, the first, choicest
רַב	rab	much, many
רֹב	rob	multitude
רָבַב	rbb	be, become many, much
רָבָה	rbh	Q. become many

		Hi. make many
רַגַל	rægæl	foot
רָדַף	rdf	pursue, persecute
רוּחַ	rûḥ	wind, breath, spirit
רוּם	rûm	be high above, be exalted
רוֹחַב	roḥab	breadth
רַחַם	rḥm	Pi. have compassion
רָחַק	rḥq	be far, become far
רִיב	rîb	dispute, conduct a (legal) case
רִיב	rib	dispute, case of law, lawsuit
רֶכֶב	rækæb	vehicle, chariot
רָע	raʿ	bad, evil
רֵעַ	re ^a	fellow, companion, friend
רָעַב	rāʿāb	hunger, famine
רָעָה	rʿh	pasture, tend
רָעָה	rāʿā	evil, misery, trouble
רָעַע	rʿʿ	be bad, do evil
רַק	raq	only
רָשַׁע	ršʿ	be, become guilty, act wickedly
רָשָׁע	rāšāʿ	being wrong, guilty, impious
שָׂדֶה	śādæ	open field
שָׂם	śîm	set, put, put down
שָׂכַל	śkl	Hi. understand, have success, prosper
שְׂמֹאל	śʿmōʿl	the left side, left
שָׂמַח	śmḥ	rejoice
שִׂמְחָה	śimḥā	joy, gladness
שָׂנֵא	śnʿ/śānēʿ	hate
שָׂפָה	śāfā	lip, shore, bank
שָׂר	śar	official, chief, leader

שָׂרַף	śrf	burn
שֵׁ	šæ	relative particle
שָׁאֵל	šʿl	ask, inquire
שְׂאוֹל	šʿōl	underworld, realm of dead
שִׁבְעָה/שִׁבְעָה	šæbaʿ/šibʿā	seven
שִׁבְעִים	šibʿîm	seventy
שִׁבְט	šebæt	rod, staff
שָׁבַע	šbʿ	Ni. swear
שָׁבַר	šbr	break (in pieces)
שַׁבָּת	šabbāt	Sabbath
שׁוּב	šûb	Q. turn back, turn around Hi. bring back
שׁוֹר	šôr	bull, ox, steer
שָׁחַט	šḥṭ	slaughter
שָׁחַת	šḥt	Hi. spoil, ruin
שָׁיר	šîr	sing
שִׁיר	šîr	song
שָׁכַב	škb	lie down
שָׁכַח	škh	forget
שָׁכַן	škn	settle down to abide, live in
שָׁלוֹם	šālôm	peace
שָׁלַח	šlḥ	send
שִׁלְחָן	šulḥān	table
שָׁלַךְ	šlk	Hi. throw
שָׁלַם	šlm	intact, complete
שָׁלֹשׁ/שְׁלֹשָׁה	šālōš/šʿlōšā	three
שְׁלִישִׁי	šʿlišî	the third
שְׁלִישִׁים	šʿlišîm	thirty
שֵׁם	šēm	name
שָׁם	šām	there
שָׁמַד	šmd	Hi. exterminate, Ni. be

		destroyed, exterminated
שָׁמָּה	šammā	thither, (as far as) there
שָׁמַיִם	šamayim	heaven
שֶׁמֶן	šæmæn	oil (of olives)
שְׁמוֹנֶה/שְׁמוֹנָה	š ^o monæ/š ^o monā	eight
שָׁמַע	šm ^ʿ	hear
שָׁמַר	šmr	keep, watch over, retain
שֶׁמֶשׁ	šæmæš	sun
שֵׁן	šen	tooth
שָׁנָה	šānā	year
שֵׁנִי	šēnī	the second
שְׁתַּיִם/שְׁנַיִם	š ^o tayim/š ^o nayim	two
שַׁעַר	ša ^ʿ ar	gate
שִׁפְחָה	šifhā	maid-servant
שֹׁפֵט	šft	judge
שָׁפַךְ	šfk	pour out
שֶׁקֶל	šæqæl	shekel
שָׁקַר	šæqær	lie, deception
שֵׁשׁ/שֶׁשׁ	šeš/šišša	six
שָׁתָה	šth	Q. drink, Hi. to water
תְּהוֹם	t ^o hôm	the primaeval ocean
תְּהִלָּה	t ^o hillā	glory, praise
תוֹךְ	tawæk	the midst
תוֹעֵבָה	tô ^ʿ ebā	abomination
תוֹרָה	tôrā	instruction
תַּחַת	tahat	under, instead of
תָּמִיד	tamîd	continually, regular
תָּמִים	tamîm	complete, blameless
תָּמַם	tmm	be complete
תֵּב	t ^ʿ b	Pi. be abhorred
תְּפִלָּה	tefillā	prayer

תִּפְס	tfš	capture
תְּרוּמָה	t ^o rûmā	tribute, contribution
תֵּשַׁע / תִּשְׁעָה	těsa ^ʿ /tiš ^ʿ a	nine

This list of basic Hebrew words is intended to help you keeping up or to brush up your Hebrew.

The list is arranged alphabetically, still you may figure out word-families (קום - מקום, פלל - פלה etc.) or groups like the numbers or pronouns.

If you find errors or have suggestions, please send me an email.
Thank you for the feedback which has been sent so far.
